

River Restoration Conference Declaration

400 river experts attended the 2023 River Restoration Centre (RRC) Annual Network Conference in Birmingham on 19th & 20th April, titled “An Action Strategy for River Restoration¹”.

The consensus view from the conference is that to achieve the social, environmental and economic benefits of restoring healthy rivers and functioning floodplains in the UK:

We urgently need the policy, funds and capacity to restore healthy rivers.

We need to increase the scale and rate of implementation of restoration actions.

We must plan at the catchment scale to restore natural processes and connectivity in rivers and floodplains.

We need physical habitat and natural processes to be recognised as being equally important as water quality and quantity for healthy rivers.

We must communicate better the importance of physical habitat and natural processes for the health of our rivers.

We need physical habitat and natural processes to feature more highly in national campaigns.

We need better-defined national targets for river morphology and habitat quality.

We need science, research and monitoring to understand and measure success.



River Restoration Conference Information

¹River restoration

River restoration is the re-establishment of natural physical processes (e.g. variation of flow and sediment movement), features (e.g. sediment sizes and river shape) and physical habitats of a river system (including submerged, bank and floodplain areas).

The River Restoration Centre

The River Restoration Centre is an independent, UK-wide, not-for-profit that champions the natural and societal benefits of restoring river systems. We support river restoration by collating project information and evidence, developing best practice and sharing this knowledge throughout the river and catchment management community.

Physical modification of rivers is a key pressure in the UK and the main reason why rivers are failing to achieve good ecological status. We actively promote the re-establishment of natural processes, features and biodiversity in river systems, and support the need for 'space for water' to allow reconnection of river channels with their floodplains and wetlands.

The RRC Annual Network Conference

Each year the River Restoration Centre holds an Annual Network Conference that brings together professionals from all areas of river restoration including contractors, engineers, consultants, academics, trusts and NGOs, local organisations, and government agencies. The event is run over two days and includes over 50 speakers, workshop sessions and many other opportunities to network and make new contacts. Speakers present interesting and engaging presentations on their recent projects, current topics of interest, or their research.

